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SUICIDE SQUAD
BY OSTRANDER · YALE · McDONNELL
ISHERWOOD · MIEHM · KESEL
ISHERWOOD
KESEL
FAMILY REUNION!

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WOULD YOU KNOCK IT OFF, JEFF? I FEEL AS BIG A CHUMP AS YOU. BUT YOUR BELLYACHING DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY BETTER
BESIDES, I BLAME FLAG MORE THAN KARIN.
LOOK, WHEN WE GET BACK TO CIVILIZATION, WE'LL CHUCK THIS OUTFIT.
THE WORLD DOESN'T SEEM TO MUCH NEED A GROUP LIKE THE SUICIDE SQUAD ANY MORE, ANYWAY.
OKAY, HERE'S HOW I SCOPED IT OUT.
NEAR AS I CAN FIGURE, WE SHOULD HIT FREE TERRITORY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS ICE BRIDGE.
PROBLEM IS — WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH WEIGHT IT'LL STAND.
WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE SINGLY. TAKE OUT TIME. I'LL GO FIRST.
ALWAYS THE HERO.
RRRAHHRR!

RRUHHRRRRRRRRRR!
THE YETI!
IT MUST HAVE PICKED UP OUR TRAIL AFTER WE LEFT THE TEMPLE!
YOU THREE GET GOING! I'LL HOLD IT OFF!
AND THEN WHAT?!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS THE SKILLS TO GET US BACK TO CIVILIZATION! YOU DIE HERE AND WE ALL DIE HERE!
JEFF AND I WILL HOLD IT OFF! GET KARIN ACROSS! FOR THE GOOD OF THE TEAM!
I...ALL RIGHT! YOU'RE RIGHT! KARIN, LETS GO!
NO!
NO MORE SACRIFICES FOR ME!
I'M SORRY, KARIN!
KRAK!

HAWWROOL!
MOVE IT, FLAG! I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE CAN KEEP THIS BEAST AT BAY!
PAOW!
POW!
THE GUNFIRE! THE BRIDGE IS BREAKING UP!
GOT TO JUMP FOR IT!
BDAW! POW! POW!
NO!
YIIIIIII!

KRAK!
WHUMP!
WHUD!
UHHHHHNNN! I...
I'M ALIVE!
I'M ALIVE!
FLAG, YOU BASTARD! DON'T LEAVE ME HERE! I'M ALIIIIIVE!

HE'S ABANDONED ME! I'M GOING TO DIE HERE UNLESS I FIND SOME SHELTER-- AND FAST!
BUT WHERE?!
THE YETI!
I'M GOING TO SURVIVE! WHATEVER I HAVE TO DO-- I'M GOING TO SURVIVE!
THEY LEFT ME HERE--KARIN AND FLAG-- ABANDONED ME! THEY SET IT UP--MEANT TO KILL ME!
BUT I WON'T DIE HERE! I WON'T!
SOME DAYS LATER...
CHINESE SOLDIERS! STILL LOOKING FOR US? DOESN'T MATTER--HAVE TO SURRENDER --TO SURVIVE--!

MMRRRPPPHH!
DAMN! MY MOUTH'S FROZEN SHUT!
THEY THINK I'M THE BLASTED YETI!!
NO, DAMN YOU! DON'T SHOOT! I GIVE UP! I GIVE...!
UHHHNNN!
<DO WE SHOOT IT?>
FLUMP!
<WE COULD GET INTO TROUBLE. BRING IT TO OUR COMMANDER. LET HIM DECIDE IF WE SHOULD SHOOT IT.>
SOME MONTHS LATER...
GREETINGS.

I AM DENG ZHO-ZHI AND, LIKE YOU, A SCIENTIST. I HAVE A PROPOSITION FOR YOU FROM MY GOVERNMENT.
MUH HANS! WHA HA-HAPPENED TO MUH HANS?!
I AM SORRY. FROSTBITE WAS VERY SEVERE. THEY HAVE AMPUTATED ALL YOUR FINGERS, ALTHOUGH THE FINGERPRINTS REVEALED YOUR IDENTITY. YOUR TOES, YOUR LIPS AND YOUR NOSE HAD TO BE EXCISED AS WELL.
NOOOOOo!
MY GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING A TASK FORCE TO INQUIRE HOW WE MAY DEVELOP METAHUMANS OF OUR OWN.
WE SUSPECT THE ANSWER IS GENETIC IN NATURE. IN RETURN FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE, YOU WOULD BE DECLARED A HSIEN--A SPECIAL PERSON--TO WHOM SPECIAL AID WOULD BE GIVEN. WILL YOU HELP US?
YUH.
SO. NOW YOU HAVE A NEW NAME--YEN WANG--"KING OF THE DEVILS". FOR DEVILS--OH!--ARE WHAT WE SEEK TO CREATE.
MAY THE GODS PROTECT--AND FORGIVE--US BOTH.
8

THE INSTITUTE FOR META-HUMAN STUDIES, SEVERAL YEARS LATER.

AMANDA, WE CAN'T DO THAT!

THIS IS NOT BELLE REVE, AMANDA! HOLDING CARMICHAEL HERE AGAINST HIS WILL IS KIDNAPPING!

SIMON, YOU PLAY THIS BY THE BOOK AND HE'LL GET SENT--AT WORST--TO AN ASYLUM AND, GIVEN HIS POWERS, HE'LL BE UP AND GONE IN A DAY.

MY WAY HE MAYBE GETS BETTER.

ORACLE WORKS ON PROGRAMMING A CONSCIENCE FOR HIM THAT HE NOW LACKS--ONE THAT WE FEED DIRECTLY INTO THOSE MICROCHIPS HE HAD INSERTED IN HIS BRAIN.

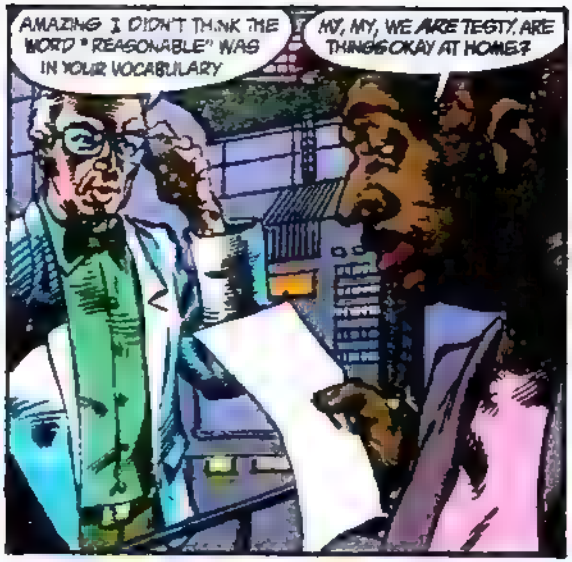
IF SUCH A THING IS FEASIBLE, IT'S DAMN UNETHICAL AND, IN ANY CASE, IT WILL TAKE TIME TO DEVELOP.

WHAT ABOUT THE SHORT-TERM--OR WERE YOU PLANNING ON KEEPING HIM COMATOSE FOR A FEW MONTHS?

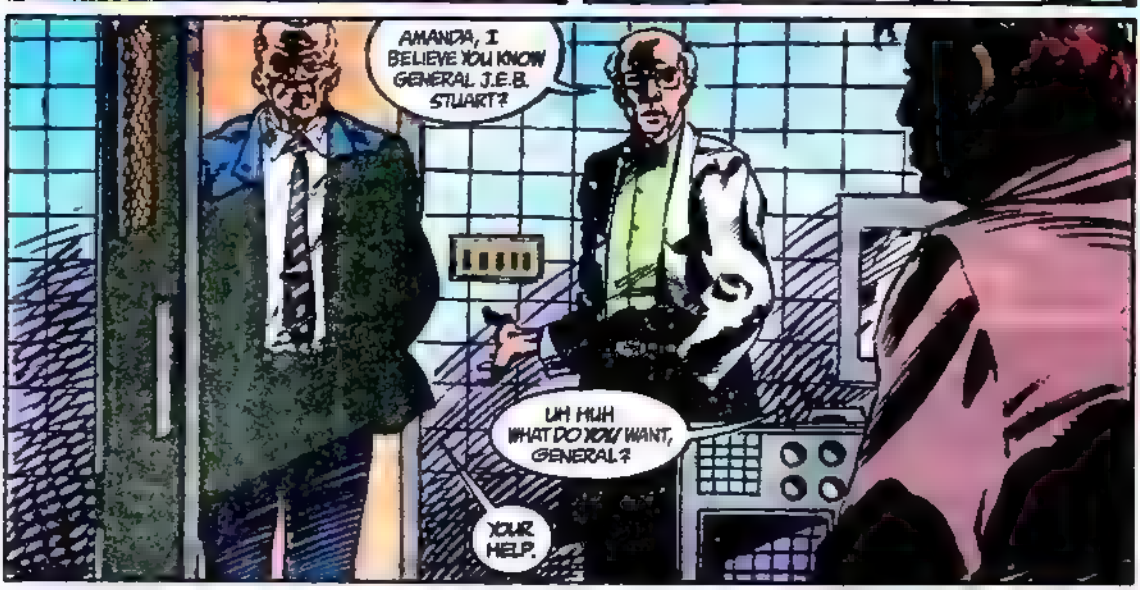
WOULDN'T BOTHER ME NONE, BUT YOU AND ORACLE WOULD HAVE A COW.

ORACLE SHOULD HAVE A SHORT-TERM SOLUTION READY IN A DAY OR SO. ALL I'M ASKING IS YOU KEEP CARMICHAEL DOPED UP AND UNDER WRAPS UNTIL THEN SO HE DOESN'T BUST LOOSE AND DO MORE DAMAGE.

IS THAT UNREASONABLE?


AMAZING I DIDN'T THINK THE WORD "REASONABLE" WAS IN YOUR VOCABULARY
MY, MY, WE ARE TESTY. ARE THINGS OKAY AT HOME?

FINE. THANK YOU FOR ASKING.
KNOCK KNOCK
WE'LL LEAVE CARMICHAEL AS IS FOR NOW. THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE YOU NEED TO DEAL WITH.


AMANDA, I BELIEVE YOU KNOW GENERAL J.E.B. STUART?
UH HUH WHAT DO YOU WANT, GENERAL?
YOUR HELP.

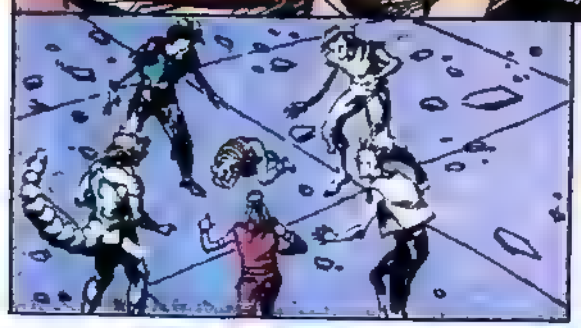
DO THE WORDS "FAT CHANCE" HAVE ANY MEANING TO YOU?
MRS WALLER, WHATEVER YOUR PROBLEMS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, I WASN'T PART OF THAT AND THIS INVOLVES A DEBT OF HONOR WE BOTH OWE TO A MAN NOW DEAD.

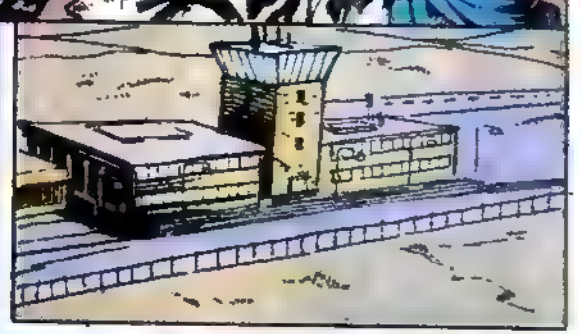
I NEED THE SQUAD TO RESCUE A CHILD THAT'S BEEN KIDNAPPED.
THE BOY IS THE ONLY SON OF RICHARD ROGERS FLAG. WILL YOU HELP?

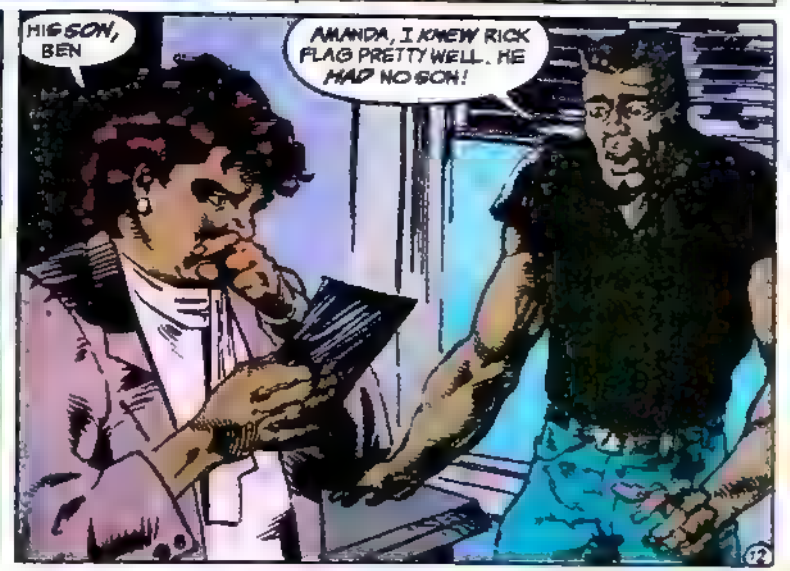
SAME TIME, ELSEWHERE
TAXI ▷
BUS ▷ BAGGAGE
GATES 1-10
GATES 11-20
AAAAA! AAAAA!
SSSSS
AHHHHH!
HHHHH
SCREAM, CRY, RUN. IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD, BOY.
31

THERE IS NO SUCCOR... NO ESCAPE

YOU BELONG TO KOSHCHEI THE DEATHLESS AND NO ONE CAN HELP YOU.







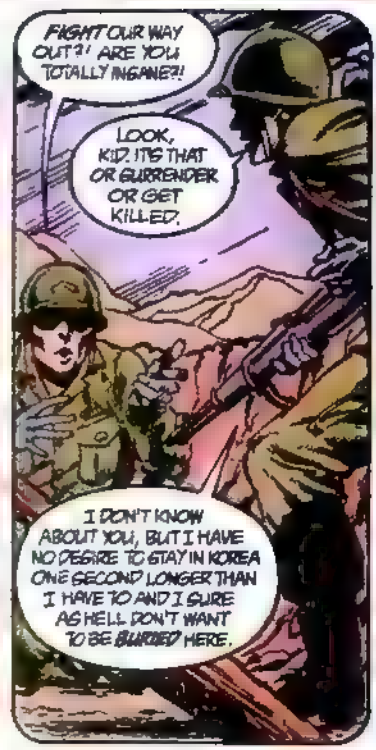
HE NEVER KNEW. KARIN WAS PREGNANT WHEN THE PREVIOUS SQUAD BROKE UP. SHE HAD A BREAKDOWN, AND BLOCKED THE KID FROM HER MIND AFTER ITS BIRTH
GENERAL STUART PLACED THE KID WITH SOME FRIENDS
HE FELT SHE SHOULD BE THE ONE TO TELL FLAG BUT-- WELL, THEN KARIN WAS DEAD.
OH YEAH. I OWE THE MAN A LOT. I'M IN.
WHY THE HELL DIDN'T STUART TELL RICK AFTER THAT?
BLAMES IT ON RICK'S DETERIORATING MENTAL STATE. I THINK HE WAS TOO ASHAMED AT NOT HAVING SAID ANYTHING EARLIER TO FACE FLAG AT THAT POINT
WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE. QUESTION NOW IS-- WE NEED TO FIND AND RESCUE THE BOY. IT'S ALL STRICTLY VOLUNTEER. YOU IN?
WHO ELSE YOU ASK TO COME ON THIS GIG? LANTON? BOOMERBUTT?
NO. I REALLY CAN'T SEE THEM GIVING A DAMN, CAN YOU? NO, I THINK WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TALK TO SOME OLD .." FRIENDS"

KOREA

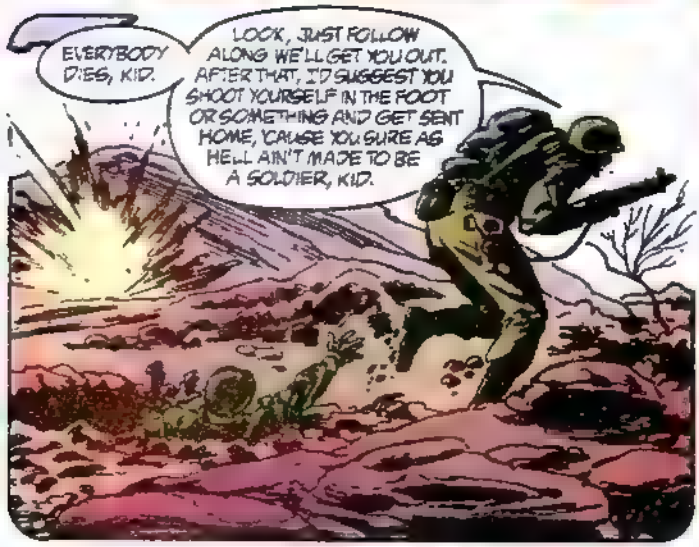
"THE WAR ... THE CHINESE CROSSING THE YALU ... CUTTING US OFF ... I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE THEN ...!"
ZEEEE
BRADOW!
BOOM!
KABOOM!
KVAM!
BRA-DOOM!
YAAAAH!
WHUMP!!
SHOOP!
DON'T KILL ME! DON'T KILL ME! I SURRENDER!
RELAX, KID. YOU'LL FOUL YOUR FOXHOLE.
CAPTAIN RICHARD MONTGOMERY FLAGG'S THE NAME AND I'M MORE OR LESS ON YOUR SIDE.

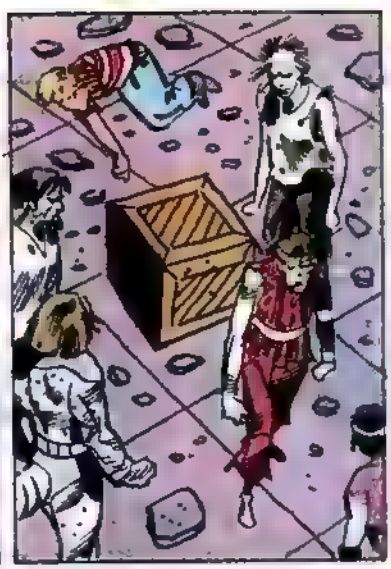
YOU CHUTED IN DURING A BOMBARDMENT?! WHAT--ARE YOU CRAZY?!
CLOSE ENOUGH. I RUN THE SUICIDE SQUAD. WE'RE SENT IN TO GET YOU AND THE OTHER SOLDIERS OVER TO HUNGNAM SO YOU CAN BE EVACUATED.

ARE YOU NUTS?! THE AREA'S CRAWLING WITH CHINESE COMMUNIST TROOPS!
I KNOW. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT OUR WAY OUT!


FIGHT OUR WAY OUT?! ARE YOU TOTALLY INSANE?!
LOOK, KID. ITS THAT OR SURRENDER OR GET KILLED.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I HAVE NO DESIRE TO STAY IN KOREA ONE SECOND LONGER THAN I HAVE TO AND I SURE AS HELL DON'T WANT TO BE BURIED HERE.

SKIP!
OVER HERE!
YOU'RE ALL GOING TO BE KILLED.


EVERYBODY DIES, KID.
LOOK, JUST FOLLOW ALONG WE'LL GET YOU OUT. AFTER THAT, I'D SUGGEST YOU SHOOT YOURSELF IN THE FOOT OR SOMETHING AND GET SENT HOME, 'CAUSE YOU SURE AS HELL AIN'T MADE TO BE A SOLDIER, KID.



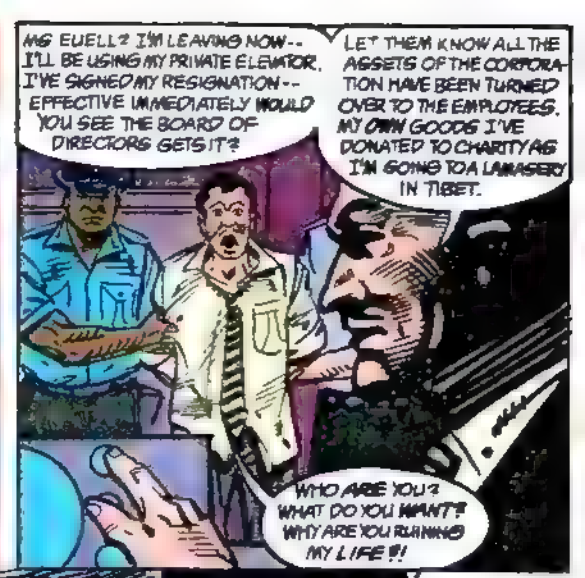
I'M ME!

SORRY ABOUT THIS, MR. SANDERS, BUT HE BURST RIGHT IN BEFORE ANYONE COULD STOP HIM!

THAT IS AN IMPOSTOR! HE CHANGED ALL THE ACCESS CODES--EVEN THE FINGERPRINTS IN MY FILE! I JUST WOKE UP IN THE GUTTER. HE'S STOLEN MY LIFE!!

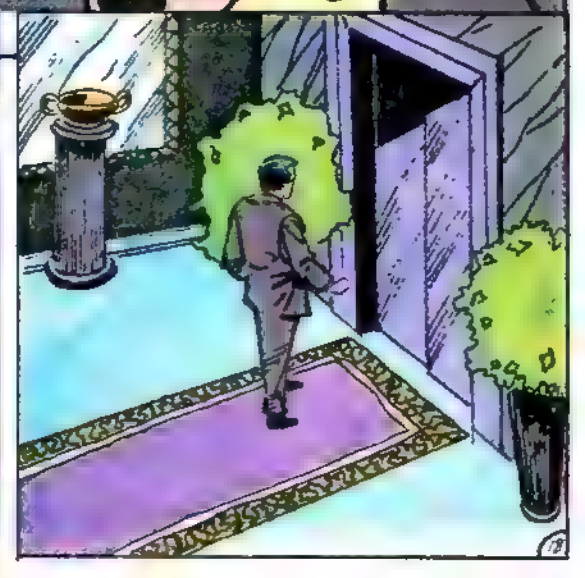
THAT'S NOT JACK SANDERS, YOU OVERGROWN HUNK OF BEEF! I AM JACK SANDERS!

YOU WANT US TO BOUNCE THIS LUNATIC, MR. SANDERS?
MMMM, NO. I DON'T THINK SO. THE MAN IS DERANGED. PERHAPS BELLEVUE WOULD BE A BETTER ANSWER.


MS EUELL? I'M LEAVING NOW -- I'LL BE USING MY PRIVATE ELEVATOR. I'VE SIGNED MY RESIGNATION -- EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. WOULD YOU SEE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS GETS IT?
LET THEM KNOW ALL THE ASSETS OF THE CORPORATION HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE EMPLOYEES. MY OWN GOODS I'VE DONATED TO CHARITY AS I'M GOING TO A LAMASERY IN TIBET.
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHY ARE YOU RUINING MY LIFE?!

THIS COMPANY WAS BOUGHT STRICTLY WITH THE INTENT OF GUTTING IT FOR TAX PURPOSES.
IT SEEMS UNFAIR TO FIRE A LOT OF PEOPLE, RUIN THEIR LIVES, AND DESTROY A REASONABLY SOUND COMPANY JUST TO MAKE SOME MONEY FOR A SMALL GROUP OF MEN.

C'MON! IT'S PERFECTLY LEGAL! IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME!
JUST BECAUSE IT'S LEGAL, DOESN'T MEAN IT'S JUST. TAKE HIM AWAY, BOYS.



SSSSSSS

NEMESIS
YOU!

YEAH. NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, TOO.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, WALLER? I MEANT IT WHEN I SAID I WAS THROUGH WITH THE SUICIDE SQUAD!
YOU'LL WANT IN ON THIS, TREGGER.

WHO TOLD YOU THAT ONE, WALLER?
THE SAME ONE WHO TOLD ME WHERE TO FIND YOU.
SHE CAME TO ME FIRST, TOM. WHEN I HEARD WHAT SHE WANTED, I INSISTED ON BRINGING YOU IN ON THIS AS WELL. I KNEW YOU'D WANT IT THAT WAY.
EVE, WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
IT'S ABOUT RICK--RICK FLAG. HE HAD A SON HE NEVER KNEW ABOUT. THAT HE DIED NOT KNOWING ABOUT!
THE BOY'S BEEN KIDNAPPED TOM. FOR RICK'S SAKE, WE HAVE TO SAVE HIS BABY!
I WON'T WORK FOR WALLER AGAIN, EVE.
DAMN IT ALL, TRESSER, I DON'T MUCH CARE FOR YOU, NEITHER, BUT--DAMN IT, MAN!--YOU OWE RICK FLAG!
AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED, YOU COULD'VE ROTTED IN THAT RUSSIAN CELL BUT FLAG WENT IN AND GOT YOU PULLED OUT, EVEN IF HE HAD TO FACE OFF THE ENTIRE FREAKIN' JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL TO DO IT! YOU GOING TO ABANDON FLAG'S ONLY SON?!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I SAID, WALLER!
OH, I'M COMING ON THIS LITTLE ADVENTURE--YOU'D HAVE TO SHOOT ME TO STOP ME! BUT I'M NOT WORKING FOR YOU! I'LL WORK WITH EVE!
WHATEVER WAY IT WORKS. WE NEED YOU ON THIS ONE, TRESSER.

"THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN EVE, DO WE HAVE ANY IDEA WHO TOOK THE CHILD, OR WHY?"
"THERE'S BEEN A NOTE THE BOY--HIS NAME'S ALSO RICK--IS IN THE HANDS OF ONE OF THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE JIHAD, NAMED KOSHCHEI THE DEATHLESS. I MET HIM WHILE I WAS UNDERCOVER WITH THE JIHAD. TWISTED MAN. HIS NAME WAS RUSSIAN, BUT HE DIDN'T TALK LIKE ONE
"WE DON'T KNOW WHY HE TOOK THE BOY, BUT WE KNOW WHERE HE IS AND WHAT HE WANTS. HE GAVE US LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE.
"AND TOM... IT'S THAT FAKE AIRPORT THEY BUILT OUT IN THE QURAQI DESERT! THE ONE WHERE THEY--WE--HAD OUR LAST MURDEROUS "DRY RUN" BEFORE THE JIHAD WAS MADE OPERATIONAL!"
"WHAT IS IT THAT THIS KOSHCHEI WANTS? THE SQUAD?"
"THIS KOSHCHEI DOESN'T KNOW RICK FLAG DIED SETTING OFF AN ATOMIC BOMB IN THE BASEMENT OF JOTUNHEIM, TREGGER
"TOM, KOSHCHEI WANTS RICK FLAG, ALONE, OR THE BOY WILL DIE!"
WELL, WELL HELLO, COLONEL

YOU KOSUCHE!? WHERE'S MY SON?!

COME, COME, RICK! IS THIS THE WAY TO GREET AN OLD TEAM MEMBER?

YOU—?!

OH, RICK! DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE YOUR OLD FRIEND, JEFF BRIGHT?

BRIGHT?!

I KNOW I HAVE CHANGED A GREAT DEAL. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT-- YOU AND KARIN. BUT DON'T WORRY—I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL TO YOU BEFORE YOU DIE.

I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE GOING TO DIE.

YOU SURE THIS IS WITHIN YOUR RANGE, NIGHTSHADE?

I THOUGHT YOUR DISTANCE WAS ABOUT TWENTY MILES.
THAT WAS BEFORE THE SUCCUBUS ENTERED ME. DISTANCE NO LONGER IS A PROBLEM.
THE PROBLEM IS .. CONTROL. WE STILL HAVE TO PASS THE SHATTERED DIMENSION THAT USED TO BE MY WORLD AND, IN THERE, THE SUCCUBUS' CA... IS MUCH STRONGER. ITS WHY I DON'T TELEPORT ANYMORE.
IN AND OUT, THATS ALL I ASK.
WE KNOW THAT KOSHCHE! ACTUALLY RESURRECTED MIND-BOGGLER'S BOOT TO WORK WITH HIM. HE MAY HAVE OTHERS. THE THREE OF US GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT...
MAKE IT FIVE.
DEADSHOT?
WHAT THE HELL YOU WANT IN ON THIS FOR?
NO REASON. ANY REASON. YOU CARE?
NO. I'LL TAKE WHAT I CAN GET.
DOES BOOMERBUTT KNOW HE'S VOLUNTEERING?
FIGURED WE'D TELL HIM WHEN WE GOT THERE.

PUT HARKNESS IN A POSITION WHERE HIS LIFE'S IN DANGER AND HE'LL DO WHAT HE ALWAYS DOES--FIGHT LIKE HELL TO GET OUT.
WE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER TOO LONG, LAWTON
TEEE TEEE
VOMMM
OKAY, LET'S DO IT. NIGHTSHADE--EVE--REV UP THE PORTAL.
LET'S ROLL
...SO YOU WERE FEN WANG. HOW'D YOU BECOME KOSMCHE!--TO LOOK LIKE THIS?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, JEFF?
YOUR CONCERN IS VERY TOUCHING, RICK.
DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL HEAR IT ALL BEFORE YOU DIE. YOU NEED TO KNOW--TO UNDERSTAND--JUST WHAT IT IS YOU DID TO ME.

"I WAS TRAINED AS A PHYSICIST BUT, WORKING WITH DENG, I WAS SOON ABSORBED IN GENETIC THEORY.

"WE WERE DOING GOOD WORK--IMPORTANT WORK--BUT I STILL LONGED FOR KARIN AND THE MEMORY OF HER BETRAYAL--OF YOUR ABANDONING ME--ATE LIKE A WORM IN MY SOUL. THEN MY WORLD CHANGED AGAIN."

WHAM!

<ARREST DENG!>

DENG, WHAT IS ALL THIS?!

I--AM CONSIDERED SOMETHING OF A DISSIDENT, MY FRIEND. I DO NOT ACCEPT THE WORD OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AS ABSOLUTE!

I FEAR I WILL BE SENT OUT INTO THE FIELDS FOR "RE-EDUCATION"--IF I AM NOT OUTRIGHT SHOT. OUR WORK IS CLOSED FOR NOW. FAREWELL, MY FRIEND.

"THE POLITICAL TIDES IN CHINA HAD EBBED AND FLOWED AGAIN, LEAVING ME AS WRECKAGE ROTTING IN A CELL. DENG WAS NOT POLITICALLY CORRECT AND I--I WAS ONLY A FOREIGNER AND A SUSPECTED SPY."

"AND I WAS STUCK."

COMRADE PLEASE DO NOT CRY OUT. I REPRESENT THE U.S.S.R.

WE KNOW OF YOUR WORK AND WE VALUE IT. WE OURSELVES HAVE BEGUN INQUIRIES INTO IT AND COULD USE A MAN OF YOUR TALENTS.

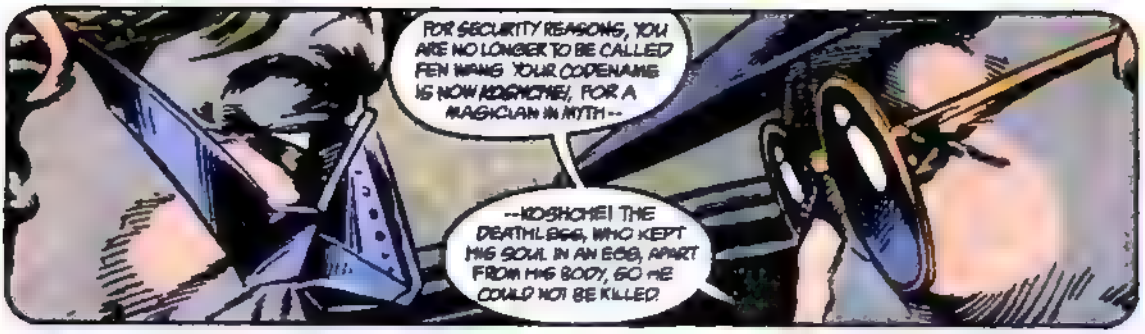
WE ARE PREPARED TO HELP YOUR PHYSICAL REHABILITATION AS WELL.

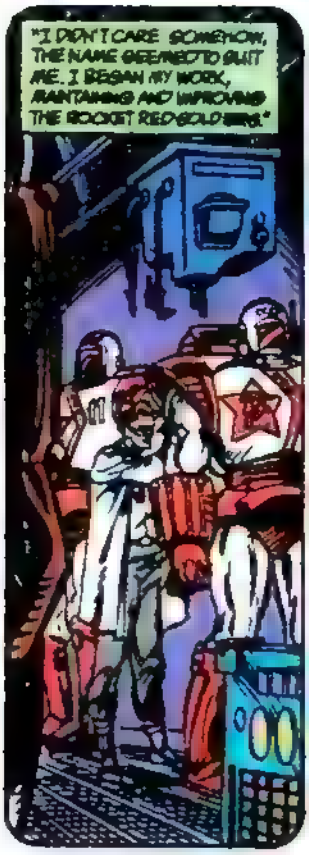
DOES THIS OFFER INTEREST YOU?

"THERE IS NO GREAT LOVE LOST BETWEEN CHINA AND THE U.S.S.R. THE RUSSIAN--A MAN BY THE NAME OF ZASTROW--GOT ME OUT AND MADE GOOD ON THE REST OF HIS PROMISES.

"THEY FITTED ME UP SO I COULD WALK AND GET LIMITED USE OF MY HANDS AGAIN."

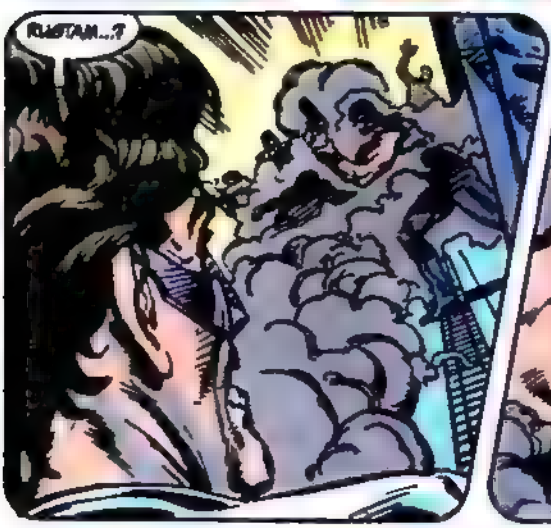
"AND I WAS RE-BAPTIZED AGAIN."


FOR SECURITY REASONS, YOU ARE NO LONGER TO BE CALLED FEN WANG. YOUR CODENAME IS NOW KOSHCHEI, FOR A MAGICIAN IN MYTH--
--KOSHCHEI THE DEATHLESS, WHO KEPT HIS SOUL IN AN EGG, APART FROM HIS BODY, SO HE COULD NOT BE KILLED.

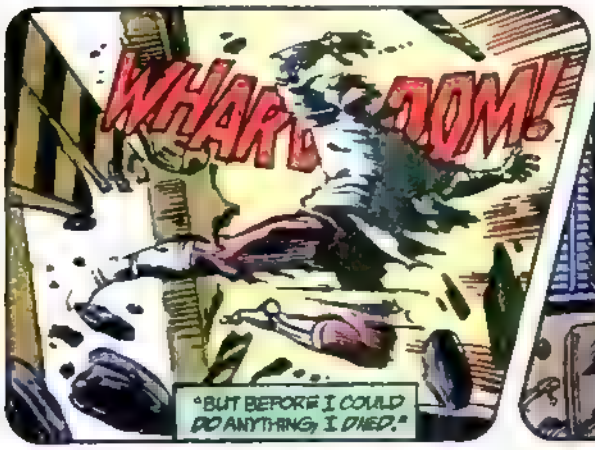

"I DON'T CARE. SOMEHOW, THE NAME SEEMED TO SUIT ME. I BEGAN MY WORK, MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE ROCKET RED GOLD BIRD."

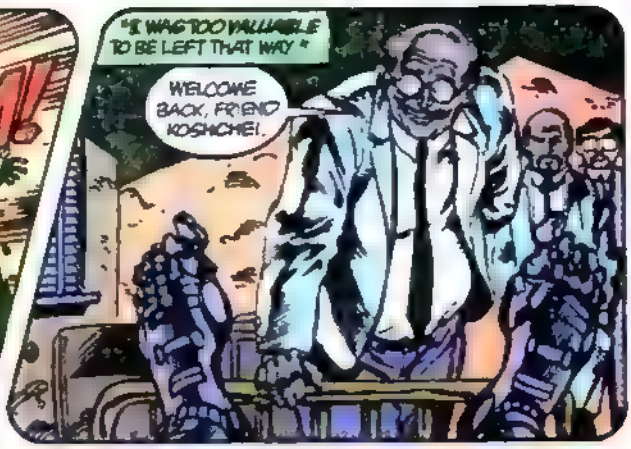
"THE RUSSIANS SENT ME TO GUYANA, WHERE I WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF DEVELOPING THE META-HUMANS THAT WOULD ULTIMATELY BECOME THE JIHAD."
"JACALL, MANTICORE, AND THE DJINN WERE ALL MY CREATIONS, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. MOST ESPECIALLY MANTICORE. HE WAS MY SON, IF YOU WILL.

"AND THEN YOU BLEW ALL THAT UP IN MY FACE AS WELL, DIDN'T YOU?"
BOOOM!
WHAT IS IT?! ARE WE UNDER ATTACK?!


RUSTAM...?

FLAAAAAG!!


WHAR... ...OM!
"BUT BEFORE I COULD DO ANYTHING, I DIED."

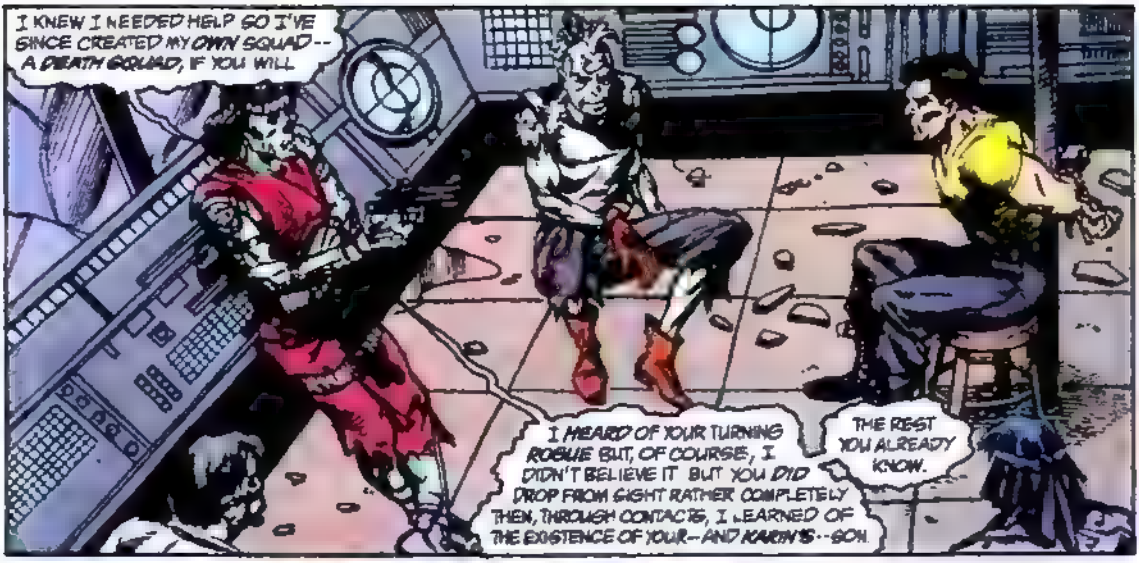

"I WAS TOO VALUABLE TO BE LEFT THAT WAY."
WELCOME BACK, FRIEND KOSHCHEI.

USING TECHNOLOGY I HAD CREATED, WHILE THE REST OF MY BODY REMAINED DEAD. I WAS TRAPPED IN THE FATE I HAD PLANNED FOR YOU AND KARIN.

"THEN I LEARNED THAT KARIN HAD PERISHED. SHE ESCAPED ME -- BUT FLAG... YOU STILL LIVED.

"IT WAS I WHO PROPOSED THE ATTACK ON MANHATTAN TO BRING YOU OUT OF HIDING. THEY HAD TO BOW TO MY INSISTENCE ON GOING ALONG.

"THE ATTACK FAILED, AS YOU KNOW, AND THE ELECTRICAL CHARGE FED BACK THROUGH MY ZOMBIES DAMAGED ME AS WELL."


I KNEW I NEEDED HELP SO I'VE SINCE CREATED MY OWN SQUAD -- A DEATH SQUAD, IF YOU WILL
I HEARD OF YOUR TURNING ROGUE BUT, OF COURSE, I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT BUT YOU DID DROP FROM SIGHT RATHER COMPLETELY THEN, THROUGH CONTACTS, I LEARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF YOUR -- AND KARIN'S -- SON.
THE REST YOU ALREADY KNOW.

DO I GET TO SEE THE BOY BEFORE I DIE?
HE'S STILL ALIVE, ISN'T HE?

OF COURSE HE IS. HE'S IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER -- NOR, ARE YOU.
WE'RE JUST WAITING NOW FOR THE SQUAD TO SHOW UP.
WHAT?!

LET'S NOT PRETEND, RICK. OF COURSE THEY'RE COMING. THEY WOULDN'T LET YOU DO THIS ALONE. I WANT THEM DEAD, TOO.

I HAVE EXPLOSIVES PLANTED THROUGHOUT THIS ERSATZ LITTLE AIRPORT. I'M JUST WAITING FOR YOUR REGGLERS TO SHOW UP -- AND THEN WE'LL ALL DIE TOGETHER.
YOU, ME, THE BOY -- AND THE SUICIDE SQUAD.

TZZZ TZZZ TZZZ
VOMP!
HAHAHAHAHA!
KNOCK OFF THE LAUGHTER, NIGHTSHADE! LAST THING WE NEED TO DO IS ANNOUNCE OUR ARRIVAL!
OH, EVE EDEN'S NOT HERE ANYMORE, MRS. WALLER
GATES 6-12
I'M BACK!
ENCHANTRESS!
YOU'VE MISCALCULATED, JEFF. ALL THIS IS FOR NOTHING!
AND WHY'S THAT, RICK? DO TELL ME
29

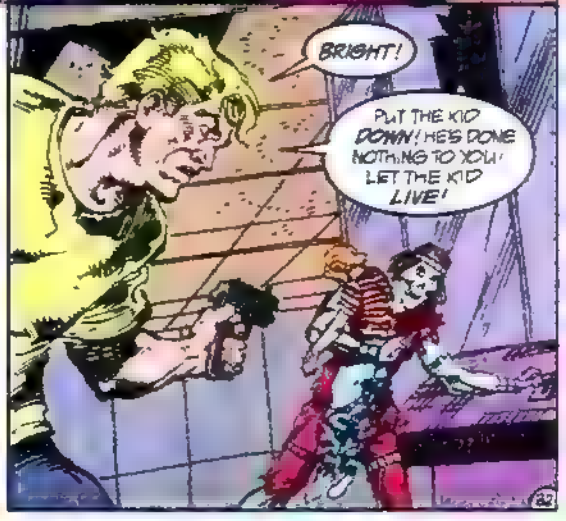
I'M ALREADY DEAD.
SSSSS
PLAG DIED SETTING OFF AN ATOMIC DEVICE INSIDE JOTUNHEIM.
THERE'S NO REASON TO KILL ANYONE ELSE. PLAG AND KARN ARE BOTH GONE.
NOOOO!
THERE'S THE CHILD! THERE'S THE SQUAD!
THERE'S YOU!
BLAM!
WHAM!
30

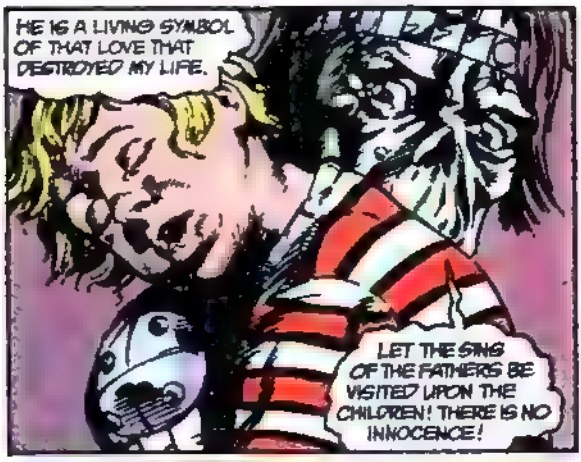
THERE IS STILL THE BOY!
HAHA HA HA! AREN'T YOU HAPPY TO SEE ME AGAIN, DARLINGS?! I'M GLAD TO GET ALL OF YOU!
SCRAAK
BLOODY HELL! WHA'—WHAT'S GOIN' ON? WHO CONKED ME?!
STRENTH!
BLOODY HELL! BLOODY BLOODY HELL! WHAT HAVE YOU LOT DRAGGED ME INTA ?!

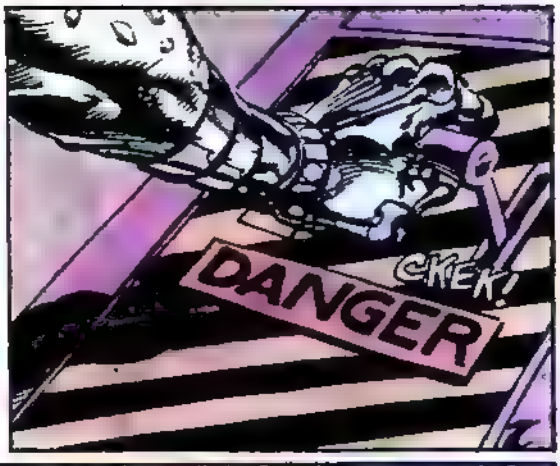
PATHETIC!
GATE 10-15
SCURRAAK!

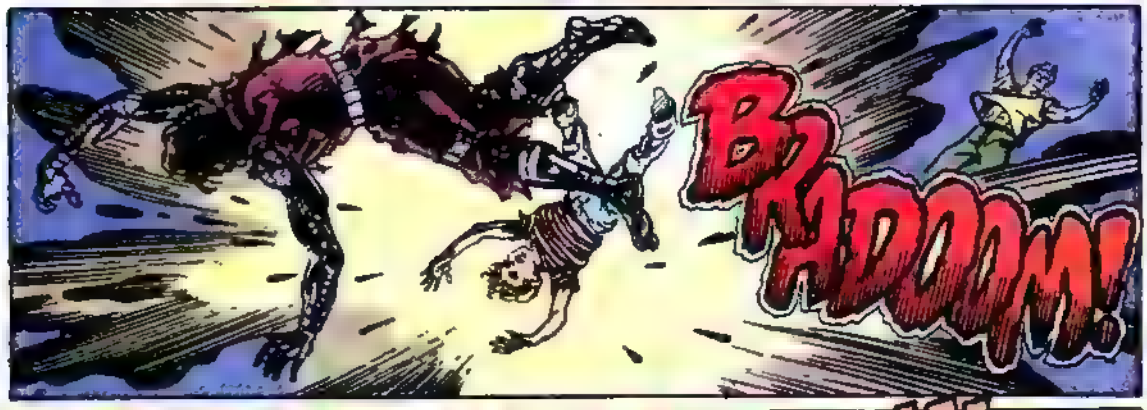
WHAT? FIRE SHOULD FINISH YOU! FALL, YOU IMBECILE! FALL!

GURRK GLUGGH!


BRIGHT!
PUT THE KID DOWN! HE'S DONE NOTHING TO YOU! LET THE KID LIVE!


HE IS A LIVING SYMBOL OF THAT LOVE THAT DESTROYED MY LIFE.
LET THE SINS OF THE FATHERS BE VISITED UPON THE CHILDREN! THERE IS NO INNOCENCE!


DANGER
CREK!


BRADOOM!

CHOOM!
BADOOM!
WHAROOM!

SSSSSSSSS
RAWAN?!

THAT'S RIGHT.
WE NEVER DID GET AROUND TO THAT FINAL BATTLE BETWEEN US, DID WE?
LET'S DO IT!
SNAP!
KRAK
BLAM BLAM BLAM!
YAAAAAHHH!
NO! I CAN'T DIE! NOT AGAIN!
ENCHANTRESS!
DAMN YOU, WITCH! IT'S TOO BRIGHT OUT HERE!
THERE'S NO SHADOWS FOR ME TO COMMAND!

C'MON, YOU HOOOOOG! I SENT YOU TO YOUR DEATHS ONCE--I SURE AG HELL CAN DO IT AGAIN!

KOSHOMI! LISTEN TO ME!
THE CHILD IS NOT A SYMBOL OF WHAT YOU LOST, BUT WHAT YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD!

YES, THE BOY IS RICK'S--BUT HE COULD HAVE BEEN YOURS! IF FATE HAD BEEN JUST A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN YOURS! HE IS ALL YOU HAVE LEFT OF YOUR LOVE FOR KARIN! HE'S ALL THAT'S LEFT OF KARIN!
OR DIDN'T YOU EVER REALLY LOVE HER?!

HERE. TAKE THE BOY
FOR KARIN'S SAKE...!
GATES 4-8

THERE IS A SECONDARY BOMB, RIGGED TO EXPLODE WITHIN FIVE MINUTES.
ESCAPE IF YOU CAN
I HAVE TAPPED ALL THE MERCY THAT IS LEFT IN ME RUN
RUN!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
:GURK:...:GUUUKKK:... BLOODY...:GAAGHK!: ...BIKE ..!
KRAK!
BLOODY HELL!

DAMN ME! OF COURSE! THE DISKS THAT CONTROL THESE HOODOOS ARE AT THE BASE OF THE NECK!

LISTEN UP! DESTROY THE DISKS IN THEIR NECKS AND THE ROTTING MEAT FALLS!

BDAM!

KRAK!

FWIP

FWIP

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

BUDOOM!

OI! WHERE THE BUGGER AM I AND WHICH OF YOU BLEEDIN' BASTARDS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY BEIN' HERE?!

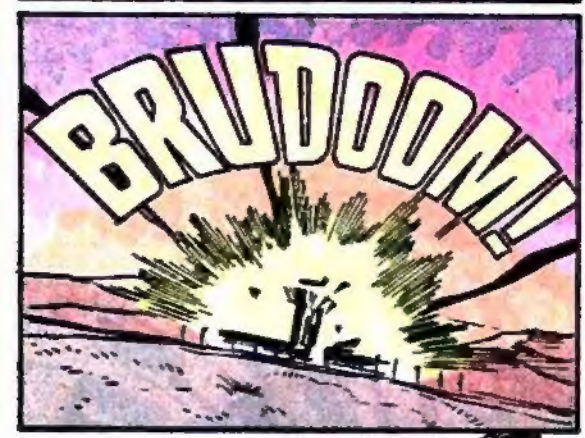
I'VE GOT HIM! I'VE GOT THE KID!

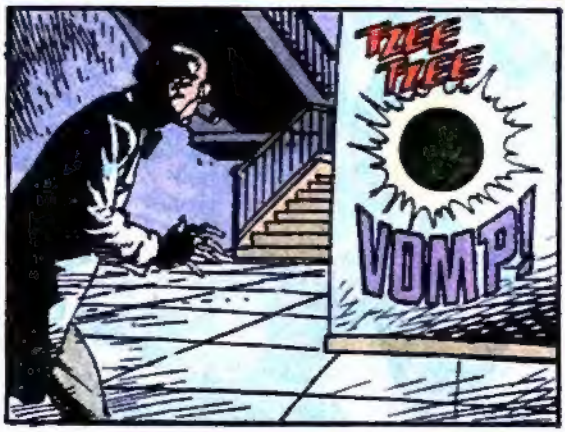
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! THERE'S A SECOND SET OF BOMBS ABOUT TO BLOW!

C'MON, EVE! MOVE IT!

I CAN'T! EVEN IF THERE WAS ENOUGH SHADOW, I COULDN'T! I MIGHT LOSE CONTROL TO HER AGAIN!

YOU'VE GOT TO DO IT, YOU HEAR, GIRL?! IF RICK FLAG EVER MEANT ANYTHING TO YOU-- YOU'VE GOT TO AT LEAST TRY!





MAAMAAAAAAA!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, BABY. IT'S OKAY. YOU'RE GOING TO GO HOME TO YOUR MAMA, YES YOU ARE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID NO MORE. WE SAVED YOU.

WE COULDN'T SAVE A LOT OF BABIES -- LIKE MINE -- BUT WE SAVED YOU. AND THAT'S JUST FINE. THAT'S... JUST... FINE!

SUICIDE NOTES

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Before I turn these pages to our special guest-letter-columnist this month, here's a list of who did what this issue:

Pages 1-8 pencilled by Geof Isherwood, inked by Karl Kesel.

Pages 9-14 pencilled by Luke McDonnel, inked by Isherwood.

Pages 15-16 pencilled by Grant Miehm, inked by Isherwood.

Pages 17-24 pencilled and inked by McDonnell.

Pages 25-27 pencilled by Miehm, inked by Isherwood.

Pages 28-38 pencilled by McDonnell, inked by Isherwood.

And that's that. See y'all next month.

—Dan Raspler

Holy dé jà vu!

It's me, Bob Greenberger, back behind a Squad lettercol. Dan was kind enough to invite me back to pen this column to help celebrate the 50th issue of this series. And no one thought we'd last this long.

This book has gone through a lot of changes since I left editing it with #30 and the book remains as vital as always, which is a good sign. From talking with John Ostrander and Kim Yale, it sounds like they have a lot of good ideas that will bring to the book just as much vitality and excitement as our first issue promised. And in some ways, the book looks better than ever with Geof Isherwood and our old buddy Luke McDonnell sharing a lot of the art chores. And how Dan ever coaxed Karl Kesel into inking a few pages this month I'll never know.

Now a quick peek through the mail that has been accumulating of late . . .

Dear Editor,

I was highly impressed by SUICIDE SQUAD #45. This new, leaner and meaner and smaller version of the Squad—well, far from the doubtful impression of earlier years that they'd screw up more than half the time, with this version you feel they will succeed in the majority of their missions—even with Boomerbutt and the rather hilarious blunder at the airport.

In *The Janus Directive* and CAPTAIN ATOM, Kobra had lost that special something that made him a villain to look out for. For the first time since Mike W. Barr in THE OUTSIDERS, he's got that old edge back—so far. Once again, we feel that certain schemes are so perverted that only Kobra could think them up.

Nervous laughter and a few chills with the partnership of Bronze Tiger and Ravan. I haven't seen glares like that since I last polished the ballroom floor.

The Israeli heroes are all interesting—I spent 15 minutes wondering who the guy with the bumps was before I found out he's a whole new character.

Vixen, as most true heroes do, looks more and more fed up. And dear Amanda is as cynical as ever. Page 19 shows her at her worst. Who's to say she *couldn't* have stopped her husband that day? He went to kill his daughter's murderer, but not with suicide in mind. He had every intention of coming back alive. Amanda is trying to excuse her own inaction. And if Ben Turner is a "friend," she has an odd way of showing it. She's using him like she uses most people.

As Harry S. Truman once said, "Dybbuk stops here!"

Next best thing about #46 was how colossally well the styles of the old and the new mixed. McDonnell can be sketchy when he's inking his own work, and Isherwood is gaining fan favor—so give us the best of both worlds and keep them a team! Both have never looked better.

2001: A Space Odyssey got the idea first, but this Dybbuk creation has certainly attracted my attention. I never thought it would be possible for a computer to have growing pains, but that appears to be the situation here. Since Dybbuk is a very recent creation, does he have the mind of a newborn child, and does it become more mature with the passage of time?

Boomerbutt would probably like to trade places with The Atom about now.

And sonofagun, Ben still does feel something for Mari! But it's typical of the foul-up Squad that they should end up in mortal combat with the team who should most be their allies.

You're doing great, folks.

Charles D. Brown
39 Stockton Street
Brentwood, NY 11717

When we next see Dybbuk, we'll all learn just how well his artificial intelligence is maturing, if at all.

[Excuse me. Dan here. When Charles mentioned "The Atom," he really intended to mention "The New Atom." Thanks.]

* * * * *

As for keeping Luke and Geof together, nice but no dice. Luke moves on after next month to pencil and ink a brand-new miniseries, co-created with Michael Jan Friedman. Look for it later this year; it's called OUTLAWS.

* * * * *

Dear Suicide Squad Creative Team,

Just because the *Daily Planet* reported that Ray Palmer is dead does not mean that it is true. Now, if the article was written by Clark Kent or Lois Lane it might have some credence. But since the by-line says that John Ostrander wrote the article, I have my doubts about the validity of the report. The *Planet* also reported Kim Yale as missing. That's not true. She is safe and sound in Connecticut.

If the "new" Atom isn't Ray Palmer, who is he? He seems to know the Justice League rather well and appears to be real concerned about Batman tracking him down. I don't think Amanda Waller talking to Maxwell Lord will stop Batman from tracking down the "new" Atom and I think you're going to have to deal with this in future issues.

I recently returned to reading SUICIDE SQUAD and I am really impressed with Isherwood's artwork. The book has never looked better.

Any chances of G'nort making an appearance in this book?

Shawn Carey
1502 East Tenth Street
Anderson, IN 46012

G'nort? G'nort!? G'nort on your life, sweetheart! Besides, he's committed to a major four-parter, paired with Guy Gardner starting in GREEN LANTERN #9.

And, as we all saw this issue, The New Atom's real name is Adam Cray. Also, his hair is light brown, so obviously Ray Palmer must really be dead.

* * * * *

Dear Sirs,

Well, I finally got some free time, so I thought I'd write and tell you how much I'm enjoying the current storyline in the SQUAD.

The scripting is, as always, excellent. Of course, could you expect any less from the team of Ostrander and Yale? I didn't think so.

The art is also to be commended. I especially enjoyed issue #46. Mr. McDonnell is, in my opinion, the ultimate Squad penciller, and when inked by Geof, I enjoy his work even more. This is not to take away from Mr. Isherwood however. He, too, is a superb artist, and is to be commended on the excellent pencilling job he has been doing. His pencilling style would be rough and heavy for many titles, but is perfectly suited for a title such as SUICIDE SQUAD.

Although I'm not a big Atom fan, I am glad to see him in the Squad. Unlike a lot of heroes, Atom really fits in. Another character I think would fit in is Black Lightning. We haven't seen much of him since the cancellation of THE OUTSIDERS, so an appearance here would be appreciated.

Well, that's it for this month, but I'm going to leave you with one last thought: kill Vixen!

Marson Fedrick
PO Box 514
Ellisville, MS 39437

Dear Dan,

After reading SS #46, I have to ask if John and Kim take a lot of time and research to write this book? From appearances I would say so.

The stories, especially of late, make me think about political issues. The idea of the Middle East being engulfed in a holy war is too frighteningly real.

Truly, the quality of intelligence in this book places it above the level of "comic" book.

Now about this issue, I believe that being Ivy's slave is giving Count Vertigo some sense back. It's ironic that in an issue about free thinking and free will for a computer, we have here a man who has not been having either of these.

Love, love . . . wouldn't it be nice if we could admit those feelings for another person to ourselves and to the other person. Oh, well, maybe Ben and Mari will get back together someday.

Re: SUICIDE SQUAD #47

And so once again the team lives up to its name. It's good to have Count Vertigo back among the free-thinking (or at least what that means for him). The new Vertigo effect was a nice addition.

With the Middle East such a hot spot, I'm sure the opportunity to see the group Hayoth will come again. But, it'll be nice for the group to go "home" for a visit.

Melissa Page
236 New Salem Loop
Nortonville, KY 42442

* * * * *

Dear Dan,

Ya hadda go and do it, didn't you? Seems like there's a certain quota that needs to be met 'round here, killing off a character at least once every 10 to 12 months. Ravan was a kinda cool dude for a thugee, bringing an air of professionalism that certain Squad members seem to lack. He will be missed.

Hmmm, seems to me that the fire of love has been rekindled in Ben. He's willing to sacrifice his freedom for the sake of Mari. I swear, on a stack of used bibles yet, that they will marry within a year. They're meant for each other.

Boomerang and Deadshot only mentioned in passing this time. Good. The distraction the last two issues was ridiculous and nearly took some value away from the storyline proper, what with their improvised Laurel and Hardy bit. Maybe Harkness needs to go into detox, to clear his muddled brain, such as it is.

The New Thinker is an improvement on a perennial loser. This is gonna be good. I'm outta here.

Jacob Gilbert
118 Fourth Street, Apt. 1
Troy, NY 12180

All along, Jacob, it was our intention to make this series unpredictable. Membership changes can happen in any group book, but death is a regular part of only the SQUAD. That's part of the book's charm.

* * * * *

Dear Dan,

The thing that intrigued me about SUICIDE SQUAD when it began was the concept of the disposable hero. The team was composed of characters nobody cared about, and who were therefore dispensable members of the team. Gradually, over time, Ostrander began to incorporate characterization—not a bad thing in and of itself, but the reader became attached to certain characters. This meant that the team itself was no longer "disposable" and the name was therefore a misnomer. "Heroes" were not dying, and the book lost some of its attractiveness. And now the deaths begin anew. I can't say that I'm sorry to see Ravan go, but at least he died in a noble manner.

Ravan was a character that I believe was unnecessary from his beginnings. He was an outstanding martial artist, with a religious quest in his mind. His ultimate goal was to stop the Kali-Yuga, or to die trying. The noble mongoose succeeded in the latter, and I'm sure he feels little remorse.

I'm not a bloodthirsty reader, but I just get tired of reading of all-powerful, ever-lucky heroes who just manage to pull through at the last moment. I'm glad to see Ostrander and Yale face reality.

David S. Gallacher
4151 Monarch Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84124

* * * * *

Hey, Dan,

The only problem with SUICIDE SQUAD #47 was that the wrong villain bit the dust. Kobra should have been wormfood instead of Ravan, and the Atom (whether he's new or old) is a real chump. He should have allowed Ravan's death to have more meaning. Ravan's was an empty death.

And it was great to see the Count revert once more into the regal badbody that he truly is. I just hope he gets his vertical mitts on Ivy at some point in the near future, the witch!

Anyway, isn't it time for a new member or two?

Later.

Elvis Orten
17650 Dawson Road
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

New members, eh, Uncle Elvis? First, we'll be concentrating on the current core, but in a few months you'll see some old and new faces in these pages. Think Japan.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Where are they now?

Well, Luke is still here and will be back next month as he pencils a Deadshot spotlight tale. Remember that "hilarious blunder at the airport"? Someone has Deadshot's luggage and is using the costume's reputation to commit lots of crimes in gay Paris. Floyd Lawton goes after the impersonator and it's grim and gritty action all the way.

Karl Kesel is off co-writing HAWK & DOVE and will be writing and illustrating a series of back-up stories featuring the Newsboy Legion beginning in SUPERMAN #54. He also inked next month's cover.

Former penciller John K. Snyder is back, this time penciling a four-part MR. E miniseries, spinning out from the chilling BOOKS OF MAGIC Prestige Format miniseries. That New Format miniseries will make its debut in about three months.

Grant Miehm, in addition to joining us this month, is contributing to our forthcoming JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA miniseries. He'll also write and draw something very exciting later in the year.

And me, I'm still editing STAR TREK and STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION while fulfilling lots of paper shuffling duties as Manager-Editorial Scheduling.

Dan returns to this space next month and looks forward to reading your cogent comments on this extravaganza. I thought it was a terrific coda to Rick Flag's life and the beginnings of this series. Now tell Dan what you think. Until we meet again, keep smiling!

—Bob Greenberger
Beaming back to the *Enterprise*

NEXT ISSUE